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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1998/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1998/L.11 and addenda.

GE.98-12501 (E)

XV. REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION

1. The Commission considered agenda item 15 at its 24th to 26th meetings, from 31 March to 1 April, at its 51st meeting, on 17 April, and at its 56th meeting, on 21 April 1998. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 15, see annex IV to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

3. At the 24th meeting, on 31 March 1998, the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-ninth session, Mr. José Bengoa, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1998/88). At the 26th meeting, on 1 April 1998, the Chairman of the Sub-Commission made his concluding remarks.

4. At the 25th and 26th meetings, on 31 March and 1 April 1998, respectively, the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, Mr. Bengt Lindqvist, made statements to the Commission.

5. In the general debate on agenda item 15, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Brazil (26th), China (26th), Congo (26th), Denmark (25th), Guatemala (26th), India (25th), Ireland (25th), Pakistan (26th), Philippines (26th), Poland (25th), South Africa (25th), Ukraine (26th).

6. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (25th), Norway (on behalf of the Nordic countries) (26th), Sweden (25th). The observer for Switzerland also made a statement (26th).

7. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Committee of the Red Cross (26th) and the World Health Organization (26th).

8. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters (25th), American Association of Jurists (25th), Association for Religious Freedom (25th), Coalition against Trafficking in Women (25th), European Union of Public Relations (26th), Inclusion International (26th), International Indian Treaty Council (26th), International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (25th), Latin American Federation of

Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees (26th), North South XXI (25th), World Blind Union (26th), World Federation for Mental Health (26th), World Movement of Mothers (25th), World Muslim Congress (26th).

Work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

9. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the representative of Germany introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.45, sponsored by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, India, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uruguay subsequently joined the sponsors.

10. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

11. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/28.

12. The representative of Uruguay made a statement in connection with the resolution after its adoption.

13. In view of the adoption of resolution 1998/28, the Commission took no action on the draft resolution recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

Human rights and scientific and technological development

14. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the observer for the Netherlands introduced draft decision E/CN.4/1998/L.46, sponsored by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Canada, Japan and Portugal subsequently joined the sponsors.

15. The draft decision was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section A, decision 1998/... .

16. In view of the adoption of decision 1998/..., the Commission took no action on draft decision 10 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

Question of human rights and states of emergency

17. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the observer for the Netherlands introduced draft decision E/CN.4/1998/L.47, sponsored by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Canada, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland subsequently joined the sponsors.

18. A statement in connection with the draft decision was made by the representative of India.

19. At the request of the representative of India and the observer for the Netherlands, consideration of the draft decision was postponed.

20. At its 56th meeting, on 21 April 1998, the Commission resumed consideration of draft decision E/CN.4/1998/L.47.

21. The operative part of the draft decision was orally revised by the observer for the Netherlands.

22. The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1998/... .

23. In view of the adoption of decision 1998/..., the Commission took no action on draft decision 6 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

Study concerning the right to freedom of movement

24. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the observer for the Netherlands introduced draft decision E/CN.4/1998/L.48, sponsored by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Canada, Japan and Portugal subsequently joined the sponsors.

25. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft decision was orally revised by the observer for the Netherlands.

26. The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1998/... .

27. In view of the adoption of decision 1998/..., the Commission took no action on draft decision 8 (Item 9) recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

Minimum humanitarian standards

28. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the observer for Norway introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.50, sponsored by Argentina,

Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and Uruguay. Austria subsequently joined the sponsors.

29. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/29.

Traffic in women and girls

30. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the representative of the Philippines introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.57, sponsored by Argentina, Belgium, Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo and Uruguay. Angola, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Greece, Nepal, Nigeria, Spain, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia subsequently joined the sponsors.

31. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/30.

Human rights of persons with disabilities

32. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the representative of Ireland introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.59, sponsored by Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela. Algeria, Angola, Australia, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia subsequently joined the sponsors.

33. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/31.

Privatization of prisons

34. At the 51st meeting, on 17 April 1998, the representative of the United States of America introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.79, sponsored by the Netherlands and the United States of America. Japan subsequently joined the sponsors.

35. The draft resolution was proposed as a replacement for draft decision 5 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

36. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Cuba and the United States of America.

37. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

38. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in connection with the resolution after its adoption.

39. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/32.

40. In view of the adoption of resolution 1998/32, the Commission took no action on draft resolution 5 (item 8) recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).